

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-10 /055 W
----- 017145

R 310858Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8807
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T BANGKOK 15675

NOFORN

FOLLOWING FROM SONGKHLA ACTION BANGKOK JULY 30
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QUOTE
S E C R E T/NOFORN SONGKHLA 125

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TC, TH, XF
SUBJ: LOCAL PROBLEMS WITH ARAB MONEY FOR THAI UNIVERSITY

1. DESPITE RECENT STORIES IN BANGKOK ENGLISH PRESS, NO SAUDI OR EGYPTIAN MONEY TURNING UP DOWN HERE FOR THAI MUSLIM EDUCATION. ONLY SOLID OFFER SO FAR IS \$20 MILLION OFFERED BY UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) FOR ARABIC AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSE TO BE HELD AT PATTANI CAMPUS OF PRINCE OF SONGKHLA UNIVERSITY (PSU).

2. PSU CAME UP WITH PROGRAM FOR PATTANI CAMPUS AND WILL PRESENT IT TO RTG FOR EVENTUAL BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH ABU DHABI, ACCORDING TO SOURCES HERE. HOWEVER, WHEN PSU PROGRAM WAS SHOWN TO COUNCIL OF IMAMS IN SOUTH THAILAND, IMAMS ATTACKED PROPOSAL AND SUBMITTED NEW PROGRAM OF THEIR OWN. IMAMS' DEMAND WAS FOR TOTALLY NEW UNIVERSITY OUTSIDE OF RTG SYSTEM, WITH NO

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INSTRUCTION IN THAI. DEMAND INCLUDED CALL FOR MORE MONEY

FOR RELIGIOUS VERNACULAR SCHOOLS, ALONG WITH CARS AND EXPENSE
MONEY PROVIDED FOR IMAMS AS SUPERVISORS OF NEW PROGRAM. PSU
AUTHORITIES FINALLY AGREED SUBMIT BOTH PROPOSALS TO BANGKOK AFTER
LONG ARGUMENT WHICH HAD BOTH SIDES ACCUSING EACH OTHER OF
PROFITEERING MOTIVES FOR PROPOSED AID MONEY.

COMMENT: DOUBT IF RTG WILL EVER LET ANY AID MONEY IN OTHER THAN
THROUGH ITS OWN EDUCATIONAL CHANNELS. PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED
BY FACT THAT ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF THAI MUSLIMS CAN HANDLE
THAI LANGUAGE AT A UNIVERSITY LEVEL, AND AN EQUALY SMALL NUMBER
LACK EVEN HIGH SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS IN MALAY LANGUAGE. IMAMS'
FEARS OF LOSING CONTROL OF MUSLIM COMMUNITY FURTHER COMPLICATES
ISSUE. CASTRODALE

U QUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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